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EDITORIAL COMMENT



THE ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER LIST

WE are very glad that our lack of comprehension of the printed Army regulations upon which we commented last month has brought out a letter from Mrs. Kinney which we are sure will make clearer a number of obscure points in regard to the conditions for enrollment in the Eligible Volunteer list.

Although Mrs. Kinney's letter was quite personal we quote from it for the benefit of our readers. She says:

The JOURNAL is just received and I note with much gratification that the eligible volunteer list is at least exciting interest enough to be discussed. In your editorial you say that the papers are identical for both departments, which is a mistake. I am enclosing the application cards for each service, numbered respectively 1 and 2. You will notice that on the card for the eligible volunteer list nothing is said on the subject of length of service. This omission was purposely made because of the assumption that those who entered this list would only serve during the period of war or national emergency as their services might be required. I would not even approve your suggestion that their term of enrollment be made for one year. It should as above stated, be only for a period covering the "national emergency" for which they had pledged their services. The Government should have no further claim upon them.

The ruling concerning travelling expenses applies to those on the active list. The circular of information concerning the active service is sent with the eligible volunteer application papers in order that the nurses may be informed as to their status, pay and allowances when called into active service; not that, as eligible volunteer nurses, the circular affects them at all as such.

Since forwarding the papers to you for your information and criticism I made the recommendation that the health questions which

had been previously required to be given under oath should be omitted, feeling that if the services of the nurses on the eligible volunteer list were required it was then quite time enough to call for such a statement. The only papers now required by the Surgeon General are those enclosed herewith, namely, a doctor's certificate of the nurse's health, her superintendent's certificate and her application card.

I note that Miss Susan Bard Johnson in her article "Some Reason's Why Nurses Do Not Enlist" quotes from the regulations the requirement that "nurses resigning before the expiration of their term of service will be required to refund to the Government the cost involved in obeying their first order."

Unfortunately she omits the clause which follows, which places in the hands of the Surgeon General the right to waive this provision when, in his judgment, the reason for the resignation is one which entitles a nurse to such consideration. This has always been done by the Surgeon General in cases of sickness, death or other family reasons for which the nurse was in no degree responsible and which required her presence at home. The provision was made to reach those who, having been furnished expensive transportation across the Continent—perhaps to Manila and half-way around the world—after a short term of service think they would like to go home. A *half* truth sometimes may do as much harm as a willful perversion of it.

The crux of this whole situation, I am becoming more and more convinced, is that the matter is taken too seriously. Pray do not misunderstand me when I say this. It is a serious matter which concerns us all most vitally, but when all is said and done, the Surgeon General only asks the graduate nurses to place their names upon a list and express their willingness to serve their country in time of need. This is absolutely all. As has been so often said, if, when the time comes, a frail old mother or a bed-ridden father or other closer claims hold a nurse to her duty at home, she has only to say so and there the matter ends. No nurse applying for a place upon that list is placed thereon until her moral and professional qualifications have been carefully looked up. The standard is set high and serves the double purpose of making admission to the eligible volunteer list an honor and of securing only such nurses to serve their country as those of which their country and their profession may well be proud.

I am glad to be able to inform you that we now have 52 names upon the volunteer list, 33 of which are from the great body of graduate nurses of the country. The rest are ex-army nurses.

Fifty-two is rather a small number when we consider that there should be at least five hundred names on this "roll of honor." It strikes us as being a little strange that the Spanish-American War nurses have not come forward in larger numbers to be enrolled for this emergency service. An organization of six hundred members or more, all of whom have seen service, could certainly make this volunteer list a thing to be proud of.

After reading Mrs. Kinney's letter we are sure the way will seem clearer to many. We still think that without her explanation the papers are "foggy" and we venture to respectfully suggest to the Surgeon-General's office that Mrs. Kinney be instructed to frame a simple circular of explanation to go with these papers now that we are coming to a clearer understanding of what is needed. It is what the official papers do not state that leaves us in the dark.

NURSES FOR THE NAVY

THE Washington "Evening Star" is our authority for the statement that the Surgeon General of the navy has asked to have women nurses employed in the navy medical service. He is quoted to have said, "That women nurses are by natural endowment and aptitude superior to male nurses for much of the duty required in the care of sick and injured men is generally admitted. Every war of modern times has demonstrated this fact. The medical department of the army is now provided with a corps of trained women nurses, and their adaptability to service conditions and efficiency in institutions under military control have been fully established. Their services would be more useful in the naval hospitals, insuring for the sick of the navy as careful nursing as is now given to the sick of the army.

"Valuable assistance, moreover, in teaching and training the men of the hospital corps their special duties of attendance on the sick could be rendered by them, and in the event of war, besides being utilized on hospital ships, they could, in large part, take the place of the men in the naval hospitals, thereby releasing the latter for service with the force afloat where they would be needed. In the opinion of the Bureau provision should be made for one superintendent of nurses to supervise the discipline of the corps, and as many chief nurses, nurses and reserve nurses as may be needed, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Navy. In time of peace the number of such trained women nurses would be very small, but the organization should be such as to admit of ready expansion to meet extraordinary needs without delay or confusion. The recommendation of the bureau that Congress be asked to authorize the appointment of trained women nurses has heretofore met with the approval of the department, but necessary legislation has so far failed of enactment."

We understand that the bureau has renewed its recommendation that legislation authorizing the employment of trained women nurses for the navy be requested of Congress. When such authority

has been secured, as of course it will be eventually, another field of work opens up for nurses. Promotion with rank should be one of the conditions embodied in the navy bill.

THE NATIONAL RED CROSS

IN this department of the July JOURNAL we published a circular giving the plan of reorganization of the National Red Cross Society. It will be remembered that in this circular it was proposed to organize in states so that every person desiring to do so could easily become affiliated with the society. This work of state organization is well under way. In New York there are already affiliations extending throughout the state and among the names of the members are already enrolled those of Miss Delano of Bellevue, Miss Maxwell of the Presbyterian, Miss Wald of the nurses' settlement, and Miss Palmer of Rochester. Miss Delano, who is the Secretary of enrollment, urges all nurses to become members of the Red Cross Society. Such membership would not be a pledge of service, but would give nurses a vote in the management of the Society and aid in its support. The enrollment for nursing service, if we are correct, would be another matter. Application for membership in New York branch should be made to Mrs. W. K. Draper, Sec., 500 Fifth avenue, New York City.

It will be remembered that both the Associated Alumnae and the Superintendents' Association have committees on the Red Cross and that the nurses' place in the reorganization of the National Red Cross has been discussed in both Societies. Now comes a cordial invitation through Miss Delano for all nurses in New York state to full membership in that state branch, and there should be a cordial response. The fee is one dollar per year.

We will take up this subject again. In the meantime we would like to know what is being done in other states.

THE FUTURE OF THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

WITH the great extent and rapid development of our nurses' organizations in the last few years,—the State Association especially, with their serious undertakings in law-making and in helping to administer the law, we find ourselves confronted with many puzzling and rather discouraging questions as to the present liveliness and future vitality of our local organizations. It is no doubt owing to the greater urgency

and excitement of state work that there appears to be now a somewhat apathetic period in the history of many of our Alumnae Associations. To a certain extent this apparent dulness and loss of interest among members of local groups, the necessary counterpart of the unusually strenuous work done in larger and more public lines, is causing discouragement to the club or alumnae officers, and we receive many appeals for advice, and suggestions, as to what can be done. How keep up interest in a dormant or, apparently, dead alumnae? How stimulate and bring the members together? What is to be the future of the Alumnae Association? Is the sense of responsibility fading? These and similar questions lie heavily on the minds of faithful officers, and we purpose during several numbers discussing the matter from a broad general standpoint, and invite attention and response in the way of discussion. We have always felt that live and earnest local groups, take they what form they may, are the indispensable foot-stools on which our universe rests, and we shall endeavor earnestly to meet the question of the apparent falling away of individual interest.

A NOTABLE COMBINATION

AFTER November 1st, "Charities" of New York, and "The Common" of Chicago, will be merged. The combined weekly journal is a distinctly American idea—more or less of a Co-operative undertaking among those who know conditions first hand and are shouldering such movements as housing and child labor reform, the prevention of tuberculosis, and the social utilization of public schools. The editorship will be in the hands of Edward T. Devine, of New York, and Graham Taylor, of Chicago.

While neither periodical has hitherto gained a general circulation they have been read to a remarkable degree by editors, teachers, public officials, the executive officers of organizations, and others who get at public opinion of the community.

To develop this educational work along national lines, a publication committee has been organized with Robert W. de Forest, former Tenement House Commissioner of New York, as chairman, and including Jane Addams and Margaret Dreier Robins, of Chicago; Jacob A. Riis, Frank Tucker and Robert S. Brewster of New York; Daniel C. Gilman, Baltimore; Robert Treat Paine, Arthur F. Estabrook, Joseph Lee and John F. Moors of Boston; Simon N. Patten, Philadelphia; and S. W. Woodward, Washington.

THE VISITING NURSE QUARTERLY

A NEW quarterly magazine saw the light in October, published by the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago and edited by Miss Fulmer. In the introductory note the statement is made that the main object of the publication is for compilation; that all matters on District Nursing may be gathered in compact form.

The first number is devoted principally to the reports and papers read at the Portland Convention, Miss Rogers address on "Nurses in the Public Schools" occupying the body of the magazine. It also contains the rules for contagious disease and maternity work as carried on by the Chicago Association, a report of the work of school nurses in Chicago and many helpful items and suggestions bearing on visiting work.

This little magazine should be made very valuable to district nurses if it is properly supported and contributed to by those engaged in that particular line of work and we wish Miss Fulmer every success in her venture.

The subscription price is one dollar. The next number will come out in January, the pages closing on the fifteenth of that month. Miss Fulmer urges all district nurses to make an effort to send her something before the next number goes to press.

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION

THE annual meeting of the Graduate Nurses' Association of the State of Pennsylvania was held in Newcastle on October 18, 19, 20. That the Pennsylvania nurses are pushing matters is shown in the fact that ninety-four new members were admitted at this meeting. The by-laws have been amended and reprinted and judging from the full report found in the Official Department the Society is in a flourishing condition.

Miss Margaret Whitaker, of Philadelphia, has succeeded Miss Brobson as President.

With the political revolution that is taking place in Pennsylvania we predict a more successful result when the nurses' bill is brought forward again.

NEW YORK

In New York State the last of the practical examinations will be held in January and the full examinations begin at the same time.

For the full examinations nurses who entered a training school after April, 1903, and have graduated from a two years course are

eligible for this first full examination, provided the schools from which they have graduated are registered with the Regents.

The full examinations will be both practical and theoretical: the practical will consist of demonstrations by which means the nurses will show their manual skill; the written examinations will include elementary bacteriology, elementary *Materia Medica*, and anatomy and physiology; diet cooking, medical nursing including contagious nursing, surgical including gynecological nursing, nursing in diseases of children, with obstetrical nursing for women applicants, and for men genito-urinary nursing.

Nurses who are eligible for either of these examinations should write at once to the Education Department, Albany, N. Y. for the necessary papers.

We shall discuss at some length in an early number the subject of the affiliation of large, small and special hospitals in New York State. We find that such affiliations are being entered into to a much greater extent than we had realized, and that the influence of the New York law is becoming more and more widely extended.

DO WE NEED HIS CHARITY

SIR HENRY BURDETT is over here again agitating the question of a pension fund which he offers to manage if some one else will find the money. Having failed to interest nurses in his scheme when he came to this country some ten years or so ago, he has now made his appeal to the doctors who he seems to think are interested in providing old age pensions for nurses.

There is no question but that nurses need to consider seriously the question of provision for old age but until we can get up energy enough to make such provision for ourselves, let us each in turn retire gracefully to the poor-house rather than permit an outsider to come over here and manage such pensions for us, and especially an Englishman who is not over popular with the more intelligent nurses of his own country.

American nurses are not to be deluded by flattery; they know their own worth and they know whom they have to thank for the progress that has been made in nursing the world over, and while a man like Sir Henry Burdett may gather around him a small following, the independent, self-respecting American nurse will not be deceived as to the true motives of his visit to this country.

We want to remind the nurses of the United States that Sir Henry Burdett is the Editor of "The Hospital," a magazine in England having

a nursing department which has maintained for years a steady opposition to every plan that the nurses of England have attempted to carry out for their own independent life, and for higher standards of nursing education.

OUR NEW COLLABORATORS

OUR list of Collaborators is now complete and we give the names of those who have signified their willingness to work for the JOURNAL's literary and professional advancement.

With such a staff of collaborators as we now have enrolled the JOURNAL cannot fail to become more interesting to our readers and its field of usefulness be widely extended.

We have requested the entire staff to make a special effort this year to secure notes and papers from private nurses which shall show the result of their own practical experience. We want it to be clearly understood that papers written by nurses are always given first consideration in our pages and that we prefer articles written by nurses before all others.

The following are the names of the new members of the staff:

MISS MATILDA L. JOHNSON superintendent of nurses of the visiting nurse association of Cleveland, Ohio. She is a graduate of St. Luke's hospital of Chicago, and is one of the active workers for state registration in Ohio.

MISS LOUISE CRAFT BOYD a graduate of the training-school for nurses connected with the county hospital of Denver, Colorado. She has held institution positions and has also done private work. She has been one of the leading spirits for state registration acting as the secretary for the Colorado state nurses' association and since the law was passed has been secretary of the nurse board of examiners.

MRS. E. G. FOURNIER is also one of the leading workers for state registration in Indiana, being the president of the state association and a member of the board of examiners. She is the superintendent of Hope Hospital at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

MISS FRANCES M. QUAIFF is a graduate of the New York Hospital and has held the position as superintendent of the Touro Infirmary at New Orleans for the past nine years. She has also been active in state registration work.

MISS MARIE R. JAMMIE is the superintendent of the visiting nurses' association of Minneapolis, Minn. She is a Johns Hopkins graduate and lives with her family in Minneapolis.

MISS GRACE E. BAKER is the superintendent of St. Luke's hospital in Cedar Rapids, Ia. She became a subscriber to the JOURNAL while yet a pupil and has always been a quiet worker in its interests.

DR. ALICE M. SEABROOK was a graduate nurse before studying medicine. She is the superintendent of the Woman's Hospital, Philadelphia, and is very much interested in nursing progress in Pennsylvania.

MISS LUCY C. AYERS is a graduate of the Boston City Hospital, and is now the superintendent of nurses in Rhode Island hospital in Providence. She is one of the public spirited women who are working in the interest of state registration.

MISS MARTHA J. WILKINSON of Hartford, Conn., will represent the JOURNAL's interests in that state. Miss Wilkinson has the JOURNAL's future very much at heart and we shall look for more frequent contributions from Connecticut to its pages through her efforts.

MISS IDORA ROSE is a graduate of the Illinois Training-school and succeeded Miss McIsaac as superintendent of that school. She has been for a long time a quiet worker for the JOURNAL, but now consents to have her name placed in the list of those women who are recognized as its professional supporters.

MISS SWEENEY, Secretary of the San Francisco County Association, will represent the JOURNAL's interests in California.

THE TRAINING SCHOOLS OF THE PACIFIC COAST

WE want it to be distinctly understood that we are not writing of the training schools of the Pacific Coast in a spirit of criticism. Our visit was too short, and such inspection as we were able to make entirely too superficial for us to presume to speak with either criticism or authority, but our visits, taken as a whole, made a distinct impression about which we think it possible some of our readers may be interested to hear.

At the present time, so far as we could learn, the majority of the schools on the other side of the Rockies, are in charge of women trained in the East, many of them women who had made a record in training school work before going to the West, the greater number having been in these positions only a short time. The notable exceptions to this, however, among the women whom we had the pleasure of meeting, were Mrs. Pahl, a graduate of the Illinois Training School, who has been at the head of the Good Samaritan Hospital at Los Angeles for

eleven years; Miss Loveridge, a graduate of Bellevue, who has been at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland, Oregon, for fifteen years, and Miss Hall, a graduate and former superintendent of the Seney Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., who has been superintendent of the Seattle General Hospital, Washington, for five years.

So many of the hospitals that we visited or heard of had changed their superintendents within the year that we wondered if the movement for State registration was not resulting in a general reorganization of the Pacific slope schools.

The Western women who had been trained in Western schools impressed us as being especially fine specimens of womanhood; of course of their technical training we had no opportunity to judge but such women as Miss Genevieve Cooke, Editor of the Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast, Dr. Helen Parker Criswell, chairman of the legislation committee, and Miss Teresa McCarthy, secretary of the California State Nurses' Association, stand for all that is highest and best in our professional life.

We had an opportunity of meeting the pupils of several schools and it seems to us that from the standpoint of physical development they were superior, and in intelligence fully equal to the average pupils in the East.

There would seem to be no reason why Western schools, especially those organized and conducted by eastern women should not produce as fine a type of nurses as can be found anywhere; the only point of difference would seem to us to be in the spirit of commercialism to which we have previously referred, which seems to prevail in hospitals in that section of every class. It would seem almost impossible for pupils trained in hospitals that care for no charity patients, to have inculcated into them the highest motive which should dominate the nurse's life—the true spirit of philanthropy.

From the standpoint of our New England bringing up, any "Good Samaritan Hospital" that does no charity can hardly be fulfilling its mission.

We found in all of these hospitals, and most especially where the women at the head had not been long from the East, a very keen appreciation of this lack of provision for the poor, and we believe that these women cannot fail to exercise a very strong influence in changing the policy in many of these institutions. They have an unawakened public and a commercial medical attitude to combat, but the influence of a good woman must always be felt in a public institution.

In what are known as general hospitals, in which class are in-

cluded the church institutions, provision is made for some ward patients paying as low as seven and ten dollars a week, and it is from such training schools that the women who impressed us so favorably have been graduated.

The large "hotel" hospital training schools conducted by corporations of physicians are another problem; in these places money is the first consideration.

The argument used by the promoters of such schools is that nurses are to take care of the rich after they graduate and they can be best equipped in private hospitals where they have only the rich to serve. On the other hand we were told that those private patients could never be used as clinical material; that the head-nurses and superintendent never felt at liberty to go into a private patient's room to superintend the work of a probationer, and that it was quite impossible to watch the development of young nurses in the strictly manual part of their work because patients paying high prices objected to any supervision; a much to be deplored attitude both in the interest of the nurse and patient.

We were especially impressed as we went from city to city with the lack of comfortable provision made for the nurses when off duty, crowded dormitories and inadequate cottages being the ordinary make-shift. There were some notable exceptions, however.

The Children's Hospital in San Francisco has an exceedingly comfortable nurses' home; this is a large hospital caring for all classes of women and children.

The City and County Hospital of San Francisco has a detached nurses' home corresponding in its lack of comfort with the Hospital. The Fabiola Hospital in Oakland has an exceedingly pretty new building in the Mission style of architecture; the little hospital at Pasadena has a very comfortable little home which is fast becoming inadequate for its needs, and the Good Samaritan in Portland has recently completed a large and attractive home for its nurses.

We visited one very beautiful "hotel" hospital; but were not shown the nurses' quarters, and were told afterward that their apartments were arranged with "bunks" one above the other!

We were not invited to see the sleeping apartments of any of the large "hotel" hospitals which we visited, and we drew the conclusion that where "dividends" were so great a consideration, little money was expended either for the comfort or education of the nurses.

When the West awakens to a full appreciation of the needs of its people for hospital care and the whole great question of the training

of nurses, we believe the development will be more rapid and upon broader lines than that of the East; in most places the foundations are being well laid and there will not be so many traditions to overcome as in the older sections.

On our return journey we stopped at Spokane where we visited two exceedingly fine hospitals, one conducted by the Sisters, and the other St. Luke's, under the auspices of the Episcopal Church. In this city we found many eastern women and were most charmingly entertained.

Still nearer home we stopped at Minneapolis, where the same spirit of Western cordiality prevailed, and for two days were the guests of both St. Paul and Minneapolis nurses. A splendid gathering of women from both cities honored us by their presence at the meeting held in Minneapolis to consider the whole broad question of State Registration.

Our summers' journeying came to a close after a "week end visit" with Miss McIsaac and "Euphemia, Tom and Billy" at the New Cranford, where we found all of the romance of surroundings and the charm of a peaceful home which Miss McIsaac has so graphically described in her sketches.

We gathered up the lines of the Journal work and turned our faces finally homeward, with the consciousness that we were closing one of those very rare experiences that comes to few women in a lifetime. We had entered city after city to be met by a host of cordial strangers, and had departed each time with the regret that one feels in leaving long tried and loving friends.

Such has been the influence of our dear "Journal" that there is no longer any East or any West in nursing but a great sisterhood of privileged workers who are united by a common motive, the alleviation of suffering and the uplifting of nursing standards.

TO OUR READERS.

We ask the indulgence of our readers for any errors or omissions in the present and the next few numbers of the JOURNAL.

Our publishers, with many other of the large publishing houses in the country, have been involved in the printers' strike and we feel very thankful to be able to get out the number with so little delay, knowing the great difficulties that have been overcome by our publishers in order to accomplish this.